

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077409

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (OMISSION LINE 1, PARA 2)

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, EAIR, WB, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT:UK-FRENCH DEADLOCK OVER NORTH CORRIDOR AND
INSTALLATION OF ADDITIONAL LINES BETWEEN
TEGEL AND BASC

REF: A.) USBER 631 B.) BONN 05030

1. AT RECENT MEETING ON BERLIN HELD AT SHAPE HEADQUARTERS,
DEPARTMENT'S BERLIN DESK OFFICER HAD OPPORTUNITY TO
DISCUSS SEVERAL BERLIN AVIATION ISSUES WITH HIS COUNTERPART
FROM FCO LONDON. DEPOFF SPECIFICALLY ASKED UK BERLIN
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DESK OFFICER BASIS FOR UK REFUSAL TO PERMIT FRENCH TO PLAY
GREATER ROLE IN BASC OPERATIONS. DEPARTMENT OFFICER

POINTED OUT THAT UK REFUSAL TO PERMIT FRENCH TO PASS CARDS FOR NORTH CORRIDOR FLIGHTS HAD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO FRENCH REFUSAL TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL DIRECT COMMUNICATION LINES BETWEEN TEGEL AIRPORT AND BASC. DEPARTMENT OFFICER SUGGESTED ISSUE WAS TOO SMALL AND UNIMPORTANT TO ALLOW IT TO SOUR ALLIED RELATIONS ON BERLIN AVIATION AND ASKED IF UK COULDN'T SEE ITS WAY CLEAR TO PERMITTING FRENCH GREATER OPERATIONAL ROLE IN BASC. IN RETURN THE US AND UK WOULD HAVE MUCH BETTER CHANCE OF GETTING THE TYPE OF DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS NECESSARY TO INSURE FLIGHT SAFETY IN BERLIN CONTROL ZONE.

2. UK BERLIN DESK OFFICER AGREED. UK, WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT FRENCH MIGHT NOT OFFER FULL SUPPORT TO ROUTE DIVISION PROPOSAL PRESENTLY PENDING BEFORE ALLIED CAA'S. ONCE FRENCH HAD SHOWN WILLINGNESS TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO ROUTE DIVISION PROPOSAL UK WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO NORTH CORRIDOR ISSUE. DEPARTMENT OFFICER EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FRENCH ALREADY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING ROUTE DIVISION AND URGED UK BERLIN DESK OFFICER TO RECONSIDER ITS OPPOSITION TO ENLARGED FRENCH ROLE IN BASC OPERATIONS SO THAT THESE TWO SMALL BUT STICKY PROBLEMS COULD BE PUT BEHIND US. INGERSOLL

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